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Three Lake County Republican state lawmakers introduced legislation Jan. 23 urging Congress to approve an amendment limiting Gov. Rod Blagojevich's ability to distribute money from the proposed federal economic stimulus package.

State Rep. Ed Sullivan, R-51st, of Mundelein sponsored House Resolution 25, which supports an amendment by U.S. representatives Mark Kirk, R-10th, and Bill Foster, R-14th, to prevent Blagojevich from exercising authority of federal stimulus funding for Illinois.

State Rep. Sandy Cole, R-62nd, of Grayslake and State Rep. JoAnn Osmond, R-61st, of Antioch are co-sponsors of the non-binding state resolution.

"The introduction of this resolution today is to send a message in support for Congressman Kirk's amendment to keep federal stimulus funds out of the hands of Gov. Rod Blagojevich," said Sullivan, in a telephone interview this afternoon. "In Illinois, we certainly don't want this governor to be in charge of anything, let alone billions of dollars from the federal government."

A federal amendment by Kirk and Foster blocking Blagojevich from using federal stimulus dollars was approved by the House Appropriations Committee on Thursday, but the final stimulus package still must be approved by Congress.

"We just want to make sure it (the Kirk amendment) is included in the final language of the stimulus package," said Sullivan. "That's why we filed this resolution showing we support of this amendment."

Cole said the state resolution sends a message that Blagojevich must not be allowed to administer the distribution of federal stimulus dollars. She said the federal amendment would give the state legislature authority to administer those funds, until a new governor is appointed.

"If the governor is removed from office by the Senate or the governor resigns, the authority to administer federal monies would go to the new governor, Pat Quinn," she said. "But right now, Illinois has the only governor in the country that has been impeached and the purpose is not to allow the administration of money by an impeached governor."

Osmond also highlighted the importance of the legislation in light of Blagojevich's recent impeachment and the federal corruption charges against him.

"Gov. Blagojevich has violated the public trust and must not be given an opportunity to play politics with federal tax dollars meant to help those in need," she said in a statement.